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Issue 343

August 2025

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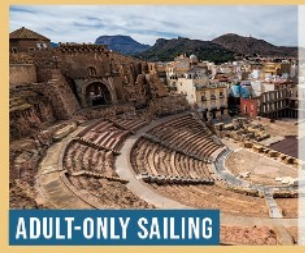

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Welcome to the Ufford PUNCH

From the Editor

Some months are a struggle, but with the Gardening Club show, a hugely successful one-man performance of Hamlet in the Village Hall, the passing of the neighbourhood plan and a bit of epic poetry, this edition pretty much filled itself. As I walked back from lunch at the Lion through the churchyard and heard the sounds of a guitar playing (Tom Mumford), the murmuration of the crowd*, clink of the teacups and dog show dogs a-barking, I experienced a timeless moment. The village show. How many generations had passed this way on this path and heard those sounds, varying a little as the decades pass? The hurdy-gurdy fades into silence. The morris dancers are chased away , the steam calliope comes and goes, bleating sheep move on to new pastures. Tea brings sobriety, Pimms restores intoxication, and then the dogs arrive. But it's essentially the same song, and briefly I am the last in the line to hear it.

As for the Hamlet, I'm one of those that
think themselves accursed they were not here
But tarried by the shores of Orford Ness
Eating fish and prating with their kin
And can but say
'I heard great things about it'
[Henry V Part 2]

If there's one thing that's transformed the Punch recently it's the cover art. This month's illustration comes from Paula Hill. Just as the print deadline approaches it has started raining relentlessly, so whether this cover illustrates August or commemorates July remains to be seen.

All the best.

Kevin Young

* I mean murmur, they weren't flying around en masse, but murmuration is such a fine word I think we should repurpose it.

Have you heard it on the PUNCHLINE?

Get the latest village news first via our digital newsletter 'PUNCHLine'.

If there is anything you want to broadcast, write your message and send it in Monday - Saturday for circulation to all our subscribers as soon as possible.

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Cover illustration by Paula Hill

Ufford PUNCH September 2025

Deadline for submissions to submissions@uffordpunch.org.uk

15th August 2025

Ufford Parish Council News

Ufford Neighbourhood Plan

We did it!!!!

On 26th June 2025, Ufford residents turned out in their droves (*well 28% of them did*!) and voted overwhelmingly – **92.8%** - to instruct East Suffolk Council to adopt the Ufford Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan will officially be 'made' (adopted) at the ESC Full Council meeting on 16th July and then Ufford will join a very small group of parishes with a 'made' and 'valid' Neighbourhood Plan.

The Parish Council and NP Steering Group would like to thank all those who have helped with the Plan; some in a very small way, some putting in hours of work. The Plan will help shape how Ufford is developed in the future and will ensure we get a larger slice of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds that a developer pays.

Going forward, the Plan will be managed by a sub group of the Steering Group and the first job is to work closely with Landex to ensure the plans for the remaining land at the former Crown Nursery are developed in accordance with their exhibition held in June, and that the woodlands and allotment land are transferred over to the Parish Council.

Projects List

Now that Ufford has a Neighbourhood Plan, we will receive 25% of CIL money paid by developers. If/when the development at the former Crown Nursery site is permitted, a considerable amount of CIL money will be coming to Ufford. This is where we need your ideas… **What projects would you like to see Ufford Parish Council undertake with any CIL money?**

Some of the money will be needed to manage the new community woodlands and set up the allotments. But we want to hear your ideas as to what other village projects you would like to see the funds spent on. The money must be spent on provision of infrastructure and facilities in the village and we have five years in which to spend it (or it gets returned to ESC). If you have any ideas please email them to clerk@ufford-suffolk-pc.gov.uk

New Footpaths Warden

We would like to welcome our new Footpaths Warden, Megan Smith. Megan took on the role from Rilla Forge and is now finding her way round the footpaths of Ufford.

A massive thank you to Megan for stepping up and to Rilla for an excellent job over the past years.

Melton Old Church Midsummer Concert

On Saturday evening 21st June a full-house audience enjoyed a delightful Midsummer Concert by The Hollesley Singers & Friends in the pleasantly cool Melton Old Church on an otherwise overly-hot day. It was sponsored by The Melton Old Church Society.

The fourteen lady singers, their leader, accompanists and reader presented music from the 17th to 21st centuries, including an original song for the Old Melton Church written by choir member Jane Burn and two humorous poetry readings, one original. Micky McBurnie not only directed the singers, but provided keyboard, guitar accompaniment and a cello solo. Following the concert drinks and nibbles were enjoyed by all, providing an opportunity to meet the performers. As an amateur musician, I can commend the high quality performance and repertoire of The Hollesley Singers.

The work of The Melton Old Church Society, formed in 1982 to preserve the listed building, depends entirely on members' subscriptions and events held throughout the year. The next event is the popular Morning Market on

Saturday 6th September 10-12:30pm. There are two religious services in the year: All Souls Day Service for Melton on 2nd November and the Christmas Carol Concert on 6th December 2025, again with the Hollesley Singers. Although just outside the Ufford Parish boundary on Old Church Road, it retains much local history and is well worth a visit. It is normally open only for the events listed on their website meltonoldchurch.co.uk.

Edward Creswick

Neighbourhood Plan - Ufford Should be Proud

Here is some data about the recently-approved Ufford Neighbourhood Plan Referendum that shows how Ufford did very well compared to other communities in East Anglia and nationally.

	Ufford	East Anglia	National
Time from start to approval	3 years	3-5 years	3-5 years
Referendum Votes (approval)	93%	85-95%	80-90%
Referendum Voter Turnout	28%	25-35%	20-30%

The only other recent high local results are Bures St Mary (near Sudbury) 91% and Horringer (near Bury St Edmonds) 95% in favour. Some other East Suffolk parishes have taken longer than five years to develop their Neighbourhood Plans. Much of our success is down to a committed group of residents combined with the expertise and drive from our consultants, Rachel Leggett and Andrea Long.

On 16th July our NP passed the final hurdle when East Suffolk Council 'made' the Plan, in other words it became a valid legal document. Interestingly, the ESC Meeting Agenda item for our NP mentioned the expected change in the Landex proposal for Crown Nursery, and concluded: 'This is considered to be an excellent example of a Neighbourhood Plan group using its plan-making ability to help secure a positive future for a piece of brownfield land.'

Future Planning Applications and the local Planning Authority must now use our NP when making applications and decisions affecting Ufford.

There have been questions from residents about the cost to local Council taxpayers in creating the Plan and its subsequent application over the next ten years. The NP Steering Group work was entirely voluntary, and the full cost of the professional consultants (and they were essential) were paid entirely via central government Locality NP Grants to the Parish Council.

The costs of applying the Plan falls on those submitting Planning Applications. They must ensure their design proposals comply, and once their Planning Application is approved, the builder pays for those features required to meet the NP.

As a consequence of the NP, Ufford Parish Council will now get a significantly larger slice of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds that a developer pays for any housing development, giving UPC additional resources for improving village infrastructure.

It's a major win-win for Ufford!

Edward Creswick

Gardening Club Summer Show 2025

'It was a beautiful sunny morning and St Mary's Hall and meadow was a hive of industry with villagers arriving with their exhibits - beautiful displays of flowers, fruit, vegetables and cakes and willing helpers erecting the side shows in readiness for an afternoon of enjoyment' - that's how Punch reported the village show 10 years ago in an article from August 2015 which illustrates the continuity and changes in a village institution. Back then there were 14 cups (Derek Lay won four of them) and the only winner in both 2015 and 2025 was Lizzie d'Hane. They also had a barbecue, but much else remained the same. Including the Pimms stall.

Anyway, here without further ado are the 2025 winners.

Competition Winners

Championship Cup - Jane Cochrane (most overall points)

Charles Notcutts Cup - Best in Show - Ros Conway

Banksian Medal - Presented by the RHS and awarded for the highest number of place points in the Floral, Herb/ Vegetable and Fruit classes - Ros Conway

Section A - Floral Design - Jinny Earl

Section B - Floral Class - Stephen Churchyard

Section C - Vegetables - Ros Conway

Section D - Domestic Class - Lizzie d'Hane

Section E - Arts & Crafts - Sam Summers

Section F - Children's Class - Jake (Jinny's grandson)

Winners from top: Lizzie d'Hane, Jane Cochrane, Ros Conway, Jinny Earl, Sam Summers. Awards presented by Rosemary Stolle. Right: Cathy Mutton's gold medal winning curly carrot

Punch Dog Show

The fete of the dog show teetered in the balance, with the temperature nudging the safe level and the loss of our qualified judge. Fortunately unqualified judge Andy Gardner donned the shamanic robes that bestow canine wisdom and stepped in at at the last minute

Don't drink and judge

No, Andy, no! Bad dog!

COMPETITORS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

Musical Sit
1st Taffy - Polly Forgiel (c)
2nd Bisto - Adrian Smith (l)
3rd Tabsca - Ros Smith (r)

Adorable Youngster
1st Ruben - Shirley Griffin c)
2nd Taffy - Katie Forgiel (l)
3rd Byng - Harold Pearson (r)

Obstacle Race
1st Bisto - Adrian Smith (c)
2nd Rosie - Shou-Wen Tang (l)
3rd Banjo - Monty Rufford (r)

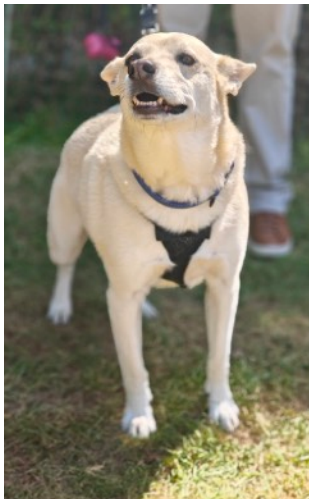
Most Handsome Dog
1st Lincoln - Dave Herring (c)
2nd Percy - Neena Atkinson (r)
3rd Murphy - Lily Southgate (l)

Continued …

Dog Show Winners

Adorable Youngster
Ruben - Shirley Griffin
Golden Oldie
Ailsa - Chantal Baker
Prettiest Bitch
Tabsca - Ros Smith
Most Handsome Dog
Lincoln - Dave Herring
The Obstacle Race
Bisto - Adrian Smith
Waggiest Tail
Byng - Simon Pearson
Musical Sit
Taffy - Polly Forgiel

Article photos: Alex Bennett, Tony Hill, Cathy Arbon, Kevin Young, Sophie Rose



Above: Baz from Lanzarote enjoying the sun, Beau (with Ufford's own Art Garfunkel), Andy enjoys a special moment with Ruben

Left: Gurning award - Freyja

Hello from the Robinsons in School House

A warm welcome to new arrivals Matt, Beck and Aoife (and four-legged friend Douglas)

We recently moved here from Woodbridge after falling in love with the School House even if it did need a little (or a lot!) of TLC.

After four months of blood, sweat and many cups of tea we finally moved in May.

A little bit about us - Matt works as a Quantity Surveyor during the week and transforms into a keen handyman at the weekend often found in the garden testing out his latest power tool.

I am a part-time Change Manager based in London but mostly working from home and spending the rest of my time chasing after our lively three year old daughter Aoife.

As a family we love heading to the coast, whether it's for an early morning breakfast on the beach or an evening swim. We are happiest when we are outdoors exploring the beautiful Suffolk countryside and coastline.

There is still plenty to do at School House, but we are enjoying making it our own. Aoife has found a new best friend in the beautiful Suffolk Punch that lives at the bottom of our garden, which has made our new home feel even more special.

Thank you to everyone who has given us such a warm welcome, it has meant a lot to us and we are looking forward to getting to know more of you around the village.

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Talk to the Horse: back from attending the Hay Festival, the Punch Suffolk Punch talks about books with book exchange curator Tig Thomas.

I've heard that the original purpose of the 'telephone box' is lost in the mists of time. Is that true? The 'telephone box' has always been a place to discover other people's voices talking to you. This is just a new incarnation of that.

Cute answer. Do you have any qualifications? There are two curators of the box, and our qualifications are mainly a love of books and of keeping things tidy.

Virginia Woolf or DH Lawrence? Virginia Woolf every time

Have you ever said shush or banned any books? If we encountered two people talking loudly in the box while a third person was trying to read we might feel the need to shush. We haven't yet had to ban any books.

It's a book exchange. Can I take a book without leaving one? Can I leave a book without taking one? Exchange is just a handy description. You are welcome to take a book without leaving one, and if you want to get rid of some books, you don't have to burden yourself with some in exchange.

Can I leave my equestrian magazines or my Black Beauty DVDs? Yes, though if they started edging out the books we might take some of them to Oxfam.

What happened to the jigsaws? Jigsaws come and go. There will be some put out by the time this magazine is published. They can suffer from the damp if left on the floor, so if you're donating a jigsaw, please put it on a shelf if you can, or leave it in a bag.

What books in the box do you recommend for a summer read after a long gallop and a rubdown? We're going to be putting out a shelf of children's books so that parents and carers can take a child on a walk to pick a book. For adult readers, there's everything from fascinating memoirs to Booker prize winners to Agatha Christie and Ian Rankin. And some rather interesting cookbooks. If you haven't discovered the Book Exchange yet, make it part of your summer.

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Ufford Gardening Club Heads for Kersey …

In June we paid a visit to Lillesley Barn and Old Gardens, two very different gardens adjacent to each other in the ancient village of Kersey in West Suffolk. We assembled in The Street (there is only one), a line of ancient houses flanked by multi-coloured hollyhocks and climbing roses. Welcomed by our hostess Bridget, we were divided into two groups between the neighbouring gardens and two sittings for gorgeous homemade cakes and tea.

On entering Bridget's garden, which surrounds her barn conversion, you are first surprised by a canopy of trailing passion flowers creating a complete curtain over the garage entrance. It's surrounded by a gravel garden, a seemingly untamed riot of foxgloves, poppies, bronze fennel, lavender, salvias and Echium.

Stepping further in you pass an impressive fence of woven Corten steel which sets off the planting in front of it, and then a high main border of, amongst others, pink Veronicastrum, dark red Persicaria, yellow fennel and Salvia 'Amistad' attracting a huge number of pollinators. Further on a pleached hornbeam hedge gives privacy between the two gardens and a small orchard with an impressive greengage tree and soft fruit in huge terracotta pots.

By contrast the neighbouring garden is far more formal and relatively newly made. Designed by Cherry Sandford and sporting a large circular sculpture by David Harbour it features six perfectly spaced box hedge squares each having a striking white stemmed Birch at its centre.

Both gardens are open regularly or by arrangement under the National garden scheme. **Ros Conway**

… While the Art History Group Visits Columbine Hall

Columbine Hall is a beautiful timber framed, jettied, moated Manor House built around 1390, named after the Norman family de Columbers. It has been owned by the Hotoft, Tyrell, Carey, Poley, Crowley and Boby families and used by Land Army girls in WW2. In 1993 the property and 29 acres of land were bought by the present owner Hew Stevenson and his late wife Leslie Geddes-Brown. On our tour Hew revealed the 16th, 17th and 19th century additions to the house and the restoration work carried out by his designer/ builder associate Melvyn Smith. They have restored the house, clock tower, gig house, cottage and West Barn, now used for weddings and parties. We admired the paintings, china, books, family heirlooms and historic memorabilia; Hew inherited one of Napoleon's maps and possibly Nelson's mug. Among many memorable artefacts was a huge wooden deer sculpture, adorning the library table.

We crossed the new brick bridge over the moat to join Head Gardner Kate Elliott who showed us into the walled garden, woodlands where 10,000 tulips are planted, the bog garden, native tree woodlands, wild meadows and the new Italianate garden which will host roses and Mediterranean plants, fruits and trees.

We loved the enthusiasm and commitment of Hew, Kate and their team in restoring the house and garden and embracing future projects.

A delightful visit was completed by a good lunch at a nearby pub. **Jenny Searle**

A ONE-MAN TRIUMPH IN THE TIN HALL

Mark Lockyer's brilliant portrayal of Hamlet - and all the major characters in Shakespeare's greatest play - was a transcendent experience

The Big Review, by Jed Leland

'Extraordinary!' 'Phenomenal!' 'Mind-blowing' and '$ %*@ me!' were among the murmurs of heartfelt approval buzzing from the audience departing St Mary's Parish Hall. We'd just been to see ***The Play's the Thing: A One-Person Hamlet***, an exceptional stage-show in which the abundantly talented actor Mark Lockyer condensed all five acts of Shakespeare's great tragedy into a thrilling 90 minutes of high theatricality. In which he inhabited – to a degree that seemed superhuman at times – the role of every one of the major characters in the play.

Superhuman, too, as it was all done in one seamless run-through (there was no interval) and with barely a stumble. A prodigious achievement given the sauna-like conditions in the hall on what was yet another sweltering late-June evening. Aided, no doubt, by this being the final performance of a two-month national tour.

With a simple set of wrap around black cloth with a red drape slash behind, and no props (not even a skull), Lockyer was entirely dependent on the force of his acting, his extraordinarily mobile face and electrifying stage presence to keep us all entranced. Which he did from the moment he walked on – summoning up brilliantly those spellbinding opening scenes in which Horatio and others encounter the late King's ghost on the battlements of Elsinore; and Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, grieves the death of his father, and his mother Queen Gertrude's betrayal – and kept us on the edge of our seats throughout.

Having seen the full play performed by a full cast (of hundreds on one memorable occasion) and in a variety of settings, your reviewer can honestly say that this *Hamlet* lacked nothing. In fact, it was so laser-focused as a result of director Fiona Laird's (along with Lockyer, a veteran of the Royal Shakespeare Company) expert filleting, that it could be said to have gained much in emotion and intensity – so mesmeric was Lockyer's performance, notably in the final act.

What a thing it was to experience such a *tour de force* in the unlikely, close-quarters setting of our tin-hut parish hall. How fortunate we were to be there – despite the overwhelming heat – and grateful to local impresarios Andy Gardner and Amanda Baker, who brought it to us not only via their connections in theatreland but in the firm belief that it would find an enthusiastic audience in Ufford. And didn't it just.

'What a brilliant performance! Congratulations to everyone involved in last night's production of *Hamlet*. Mark was outstanding'

'I am absolutely blown away by Regeneration Theatre … Mark Lockyer's enigmatic, world-class performance left us in awe' -Scilla and Jonathan

Above left: Amanda works on the set. Above right: Amanda and Fiona

'… a huge thank you to you and Amanda for bringing such an amazing experience to our little village!' - Helen and Douglas

'… the production you staged last night was amazing and the actor's performance was stunning. A big thank you to you and Amanda for all your hard work in bringing such a rich vein of culture to Ufford' - Keith

Amanda Baker explains how she turned our tin hall into a wonderful setting for the Bard's famous play.

Hamlet was coming to Ufford and the Parish Hall, the setting for murder, madness and revenge. How to conjure an atmosphere of dimly lit medieval halls, festering with dynastic rivalry?

My idea was to frame the entrance with full length Danish flags, battle worn and spattered with blood. Entering the hall, smaller heraldic banners would hang in pairs, inspired by St George's Chapel, Windsor!

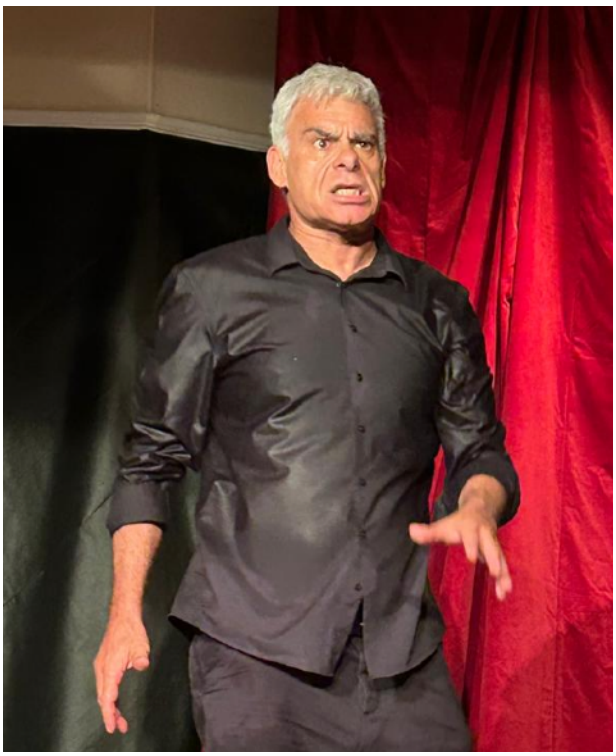
I gathered my materials and booked two days off work. The large flags were the biggest challenge. I lacked space at home and my practice attempts at blood spatter were making a mess of the dining room.

Luckily my friend Zana is an artist with a studio just the right size. I decamped there. Masking off the cross with tape, I used a radiator roller to paint it, enthusiastically flinging red paint over the finished articles.

Back on the dining table, the smaller banners were more manageable but still took a long day to make. I didn't attempt to recreate historic banners but designed simplified nods in that direction.

Finally, with flags stapled to the porch and banners hung at the back where they wouldn't encroach on sight lines to the stage, it's time for the final element. Lightbulbs imitating the flicker of candlelight.

A jug of Dark and Stormy cocktail and the scene was set.



Oh that this too too solid flesh would melt. Below: on a scorching evening, Mark rehydrates backstage

'One man *Hamlet* is a feat, *Hamlet* in 90 minutes remarkable … Incredible … Thank you and Amanda for bringing such incredible performances to us in Ufford- you are stars, star impresarios!' - Nick

'what can I say, other than it was magnificent and mesmerising' - Jane

'That was an extraordinary performance by Mark Lockyer yesterday. Thank you for bringing such an outstanding piece of work to Ufford' - Jeremy

Director Fiona Laird's describes how bringing Regeneration Theatre's Hamlet to St Mary's Church Hall in Ufford was an unforgettable experience.

I have known Amanda for nearly forty years. Fast forward to this April when she came to see *Hamlet* at Wilton's Music Hall in London, loved it, and asked if we'd consider bringing it to Ufford. A date was set and the wheels sprang into motion.

With a week to go the show was almost sold out. What could go wrong? Cue the bombshell that our Company Stage Manager had not put the Ufford date in her diary and wasn't coming. And with 48 hours to go our lighting technician became ill and we suddenly had NO technical support/crew at all.

A much depleted band of brothers - myself and Mark - drove up to Ufford.

The next day is a blur of images of Amanda up a step ladder with a staple gun, me staring at a lighting board, Andy arriving with extension leads, lamps, fans and endless good cheer, and Mark trying to run through the show while I worked out how to put the right light on him at the right time.

Amanda had made the hall look wonderful, even down to putting firelight bulbs in the house lights to create an exciting atmosphere - she had thought of everything.

Then suddenly it was 7.30pm, the hall was packed and we were off.

I think it was possibly the best performance Mark has ever given, driven by unique circumstances: the love and support we had had from Amanda and Andy, and the fact that we'd had to get ourselves through the whole thing on our own with no crew or technical support, combined to light a 'blue touch paper' that we'd never lit before.

I will never forget the atmosphere that night. It was very special. As I said to the audience that night: we will be back.

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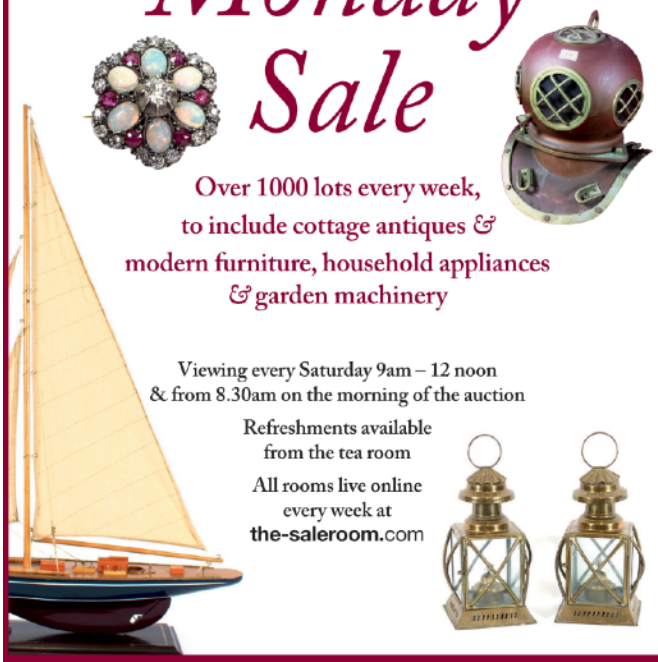

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Nature Notes by Chris Reading (christopher.reading@icloud.com)

Driving along a lane near Ufford recently, I was lucky enough to see not one, but two green woodpeckers emerge from a hedge and fly along in front of me. I often hear their distinctive laughing call from the water meadows when standing in our garden at Croft Cottage but rarely catch sight of them. This call is the reason for their folk name, the 'yaffle'. The green woodpecker is the largest of its species to be found in the UK; the others being the greater spotted and lesser spotted. Their diet consists mainly of ants. That's why you will usually see them on the ground feeding from an ants nest in the short turf of a garden lawn or woodland ride. Both sexes have green plumage with a yellow rump and red cap. Both sexes have a black 'moustache' but the male has a red centre to his, which is the main distinguishing feature. They have a long retractable sticky tongue with which they extract ants from their nest. They can be found throughout England and Wales but are absent from Ireland, parts of Scotland, and the Channel Islands. They are green listed for conservation – which seems appropriate.

Photo: John Richardson

Nature Knowledge: Following the results of the Big Butterfly Count 2024, Butterfly Conservation have declared a butterfly emergency, and they need your help more than ever before. By taking part in this year's Big Butterfly Count – a UK-wide survey – you can help assess the health of our environment simply by counting butterflies. It's not too late. The count runs until **Sunday 10 August**. I attach a link to their website, where you can learn how to take part. Also, if you can't tell a Red Admiral from a Holly Blue, you can download a handy identification chart at https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/

THE JOURNEY by Mike Bewley-Pope

So be it

For we had left our homeland too late in the season. The Weather inclement, the sea unhelpful, for the wind whipped up the waves until their heads breathed foam. Clouds banished the stars, creating scant light, navigation became a source of argument and sworn oaths. Rain sodden our furs, rowing hands became raw and bleeding.

The coming of land was most welcome, a river mouth offered calm and shelter. Steer cautiously, draw breath, relax taut muscles, find an inviting beach for our boats. Feel cold feet on the sand, time to think, perhaps there may be a life for us in this unknown land. At times during the crossing it was doubtful.

That was all many winters ago. Our folk came after us, raising families and then joining their ancestors.
A great Mead Hall was built, far up the river from our first resting place. It has seen much feasting, drinking, music and magical storytelling around the fire. Tales were told of mighty deeds, the destruction of dragons and monsters, the death of heroes.

Now our great king is no more. We must take him and his ship down river to a place high above the water. Remove trees, even a path, place rollers to haul and heave the hull upwards to a crown of land.

His fame was so great and he gave such wisdom that a monumental quay must be made for hls final voyage. All of us will raise the resting mound for him and his burial chamber.

He will need sword and shield,
clothes, daily utensils jewelled
clasps and buckles; nothing to be spared,
we will do without, for he must be fully prepared.
It is done.
Walk away.
Leave it for the gods to care.

After centuries of silence further hands came to ponder on this place, curiosity aroused by mounds and stories handed down.
Excavation was careful and slowly showed the brown riveting shape of a faded hull.
Then a far greater conflict arose. It was six battle scarred years before calm and peace were restored
Finally, the secrets of the site were revealed, delicately piece by piece taken from the giving earth.
Great was the treasure; a wonder to behold.

Today many come to see this trusting place, to gasp at the filigree gold, gaze at the intricate fearsome helmet and be amazed at the richness of life in those times.
They are far more than ever did journey across the sea, all those generations ago.

Almshouse Award

Congratulations to the Ufford Charities (Non-Ecclesiastical Charities)

In early 2021 the Trustees of the charity that manages the Ufford Almshouses in Church Lane, made a decision to refurbish the building, to ensure it was fit for 21st century living. The project was aided by a substantial grant from Homes England, and a loan from the Almshouse Association, with the remaining funds coming from the charity itself.
Plans were drawn up by local architect Tim Buxbaum, and the work was completed by local builder, Paul Rust. Work commenced in July 2023 and took just over a year to complete. The wonderful news is that the Trustees have received an award from the Almshouse Association, for the innovative design of the building. In addition, they also won the coveted Chairman's Favourite Award.

Judi Hallett (Secretary) and Steve Mayhew (Chair) travelled to London to receive the award on behalf of the charity.

Kicking the Bucket, Saxon Style

Britain and France announced a 'one in, one out' deal recently, the details of which may have escaped your attention. The 'one in' in this case was the Bayeux Tapestry, and the 'one out' was the Sutton Hoo Treasure, which is heading off to France to be held hostage while we are loaned the tapestry, which as we all know is 70 metres of propaganda about William the Conqueror, one of the most unpleasant individuals ever to occupy the throne of England. Our Anglo-Saxon forebears, who hated William and referred to him as 'William the Bastard', are no doubt spinning in their graves (or ships, depending on rank and status).

Luckily, our intrepid archaeologists have spent the last couple of years digging up more bits of Sutton Hoo and Rendlesham, so our cupboard will not be entirely bare. And it was to explain these recent finds that Dr Sam Newton came to The White Lion on 18th June.

Dr Newton described how the most important recent discovery at Sutton Hoo is the bottom half of the Bromeswell bucket, including the mortal remains of its Anglo-Saxon owner. The top half was ploughed up some years ago, and they've been looking for the rest ever since. The bucket was discovered in Garden Field along with various other graves. Its positioning (on the other side of the visitor centre) supports the theory that Sutton Hoo was a far more extensive burial ground than originally thought. The decorations on the bucket are Assyrian, and it seems likely that it was brought back by some local men who went off to fight as mercenaries in the Byzantine army in 575 AD. This could also explain the origin of some of the finely-worked Sutton Hoo jewels that were found in the ship burial.

Meanwhile, over at Rendlesham, the remains of Raedwald's feasting hall have been unearthed near St Gregory's church. The hall, which measures 23m by 9.5m, is part of a major settlement established at Rendlesham, stretching through Eyke and extending down to Sutton Hoo. This is now known as England's Valley of the Kings, apparently, but with fewer camels and souvenir sellers than the original in Egypt.

All this was expertly explained by Dr Newton, and for those who want to know more, various Time Team Specials are available on You Tube. For those who want to see the Sutton Hoo Treasure at the British Museum, you have until early 2026. And for Bayeux tapestry fans, a very good replica is on show in Reading museum, or you can join the queue for the real thing in September 2026.

Tim Mumford (cartoon by Alex Ayliffe)

And They Call It Puppy Love…

There's something truly special about a story with a happy ending—and this one is all about puppy love!

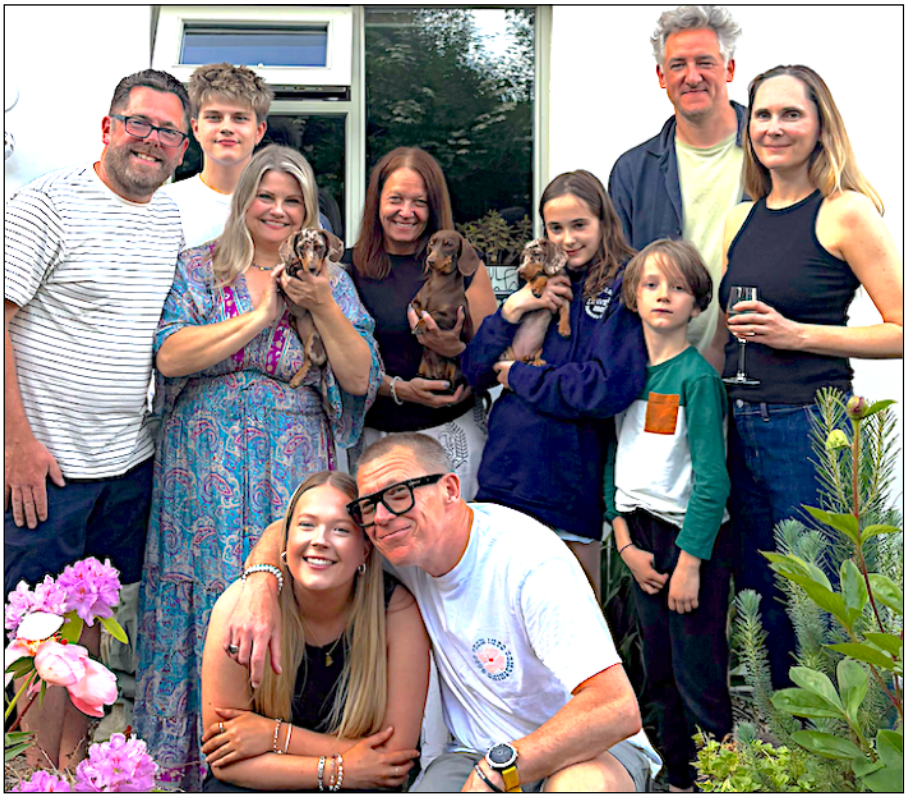
Lola's (aka Sausage's) beautiful puppies have both found their forever homes right here in the village, and their fairytale continues just as sweetly as it began. Their proud families couldn't be happier—and neither could we!

Dottie has settled in just a few doors away with Sam, Kev and Harry, and Indie—full name Indiana Jones—is loving life near the golf course with Mike, Helen, Flo and Monty.

'We're so thrilled that both puppies stayed local,' says Julie Murray. 'They're still very much part of our lives and often come to visit for holidays and little reunions.'

It's safe to say these pups have truly landed on their paws—and we look forward to watching them grow up in the heart of our village

Julie Murray



Nick Joins the Doddie'5 Lions Challenge in Ireland

Ufford resident Nick Apperley who is living with MND was invited by The Doddie Weir Foundation to join Scottish rugby legend Kenny Logan, his wife Gabby, Doddie's wife Cathy**,** son Hamish, Scottish footballer Ally McCoist and more than 50 more fundraisers, celebrities and former rugby players on Doddie'5LionsChallenge.

This 555-mile week long endurance ride was inspired by the camaraderie and iconic spirit of the British and Irish Lions tour. The aim of the challenge was to raise over £500,000 for the My Name'5 Doddie Foundation and the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association – so far they have raised an incredible £621,000.

The team began their 555-mile challenge in Belfast and cycled through counties including Galway, Limerick, Cork and Wicklow where Nick joined the ride for the last leg up to Dublin finishing in style on June 20th showered with pink Prosecco and plenty of Guinness. They all then travelled to the Aviva Stadium in Dublin and delivered the match ball before the British and Irish Lions' 1888 Cup clash with Argentina.

Nick enthusiastically commented 'it was a marvellous opportunity, fantastic ride and great craic!'

Alex Bennett

Crownfield's resident Fred Davidson was unable to join Nick on his evening bike ride in June but is setting off with friends on September 7th for a 444-mile Suffolk to Sennen cycle in support of Nick's MND fundraising. Flapjacks and brownies to sustain them on their ride will be greatly appreciated. You can support Fred and donate using the attached QR code. More details to follow.

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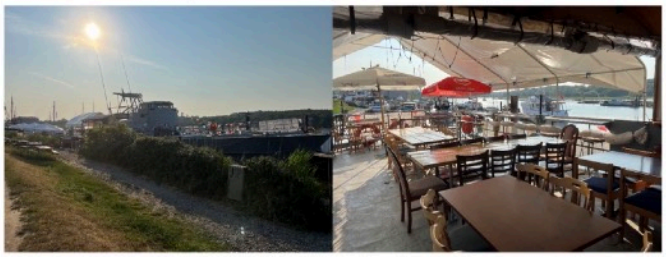

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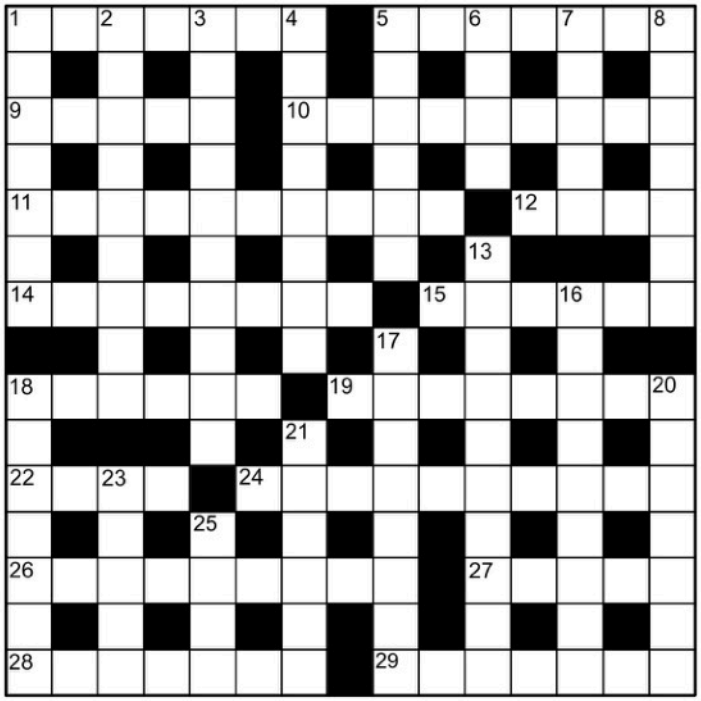
The Punch Crossword by Peter Turner

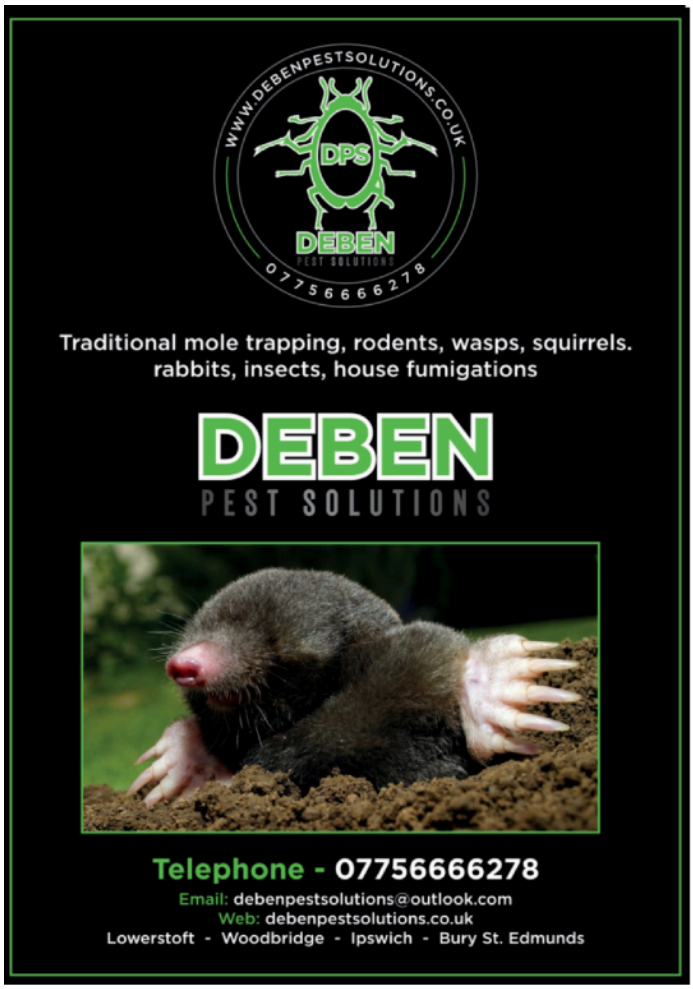


ACROSS **(Answers on next page)**

1 Barbigerous. (7)
5 Optional description of Ufford. (7)
9 & 12 One popular village location for ingurgitation. (5,4)
10 In law, capable of being transferred to new ownership. (9)
11 Mushrooms bearing connotations of toxicity. (10)
12 See 9 across.
14 *Acacia farnesiana*. Spiny plant of mimosa family, native to Texas and Mexico. (8)
15 Season when one may add up. (6)
18 Meteorological opposite to 15 across. (6)
19 (Adj.) Relating to cultivated land. (8)
22 A location of cultivated land. (4)
24 Indisputable. (10)
26 Those engaged in the hunting or trapping of *Leporidae*. (9)
27 Visual representation. (5)
28 The ratio of a substance's mass to its volume. (7)
29 Colourless, inflammable liquid widely used in the production of various plastics. (7)

DOWN

1 Spellbind. (7)
2 Spiritedness – especially in a drawn movie film. (9)
3 One who can dexterously turn a bolt into a woman's one-piece garment. (10)
4 The rival generals who fought for control of Alexander the Great's empire after his death. (8)
5 Unwelcome result of dripping water in cold weather. (6)
6 To sharply pull someone from northern American states, (4)
7 Latin word for books. (5)
8 The state of being less grubby. (7)
13 Commendable persistence of existence. (10)
16 The thing Jack always likes to have spliced. (9)
17 Exits through exits. (8)
18 Comprising multiple thin layers. (7)
20 A cultured Bantu ethnic group of Southern. Africa. (7)
21 Hay fever suffering one of Disney's Seven Dwarfs who attended Snow White. (6)
23 Either *Ericathus rubecula*, or Batman's assistant. (5)
25 Intelligent personal assistant created by Apple. (4)



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Garden Notes from The Almshouse

Ray Whitehand returns this month, focussing on June and July

For this quarter's series of memories, notes and tips I'm appropriately beginning with the long hot summer of 1976. At the time I was working as chargehand on the tree nursery at Pettistree, where June & July were spent budding the young root stocks planted in the spring. The rows of rootstocks would be straddled. We would then slice out individual leaf buds from prepared branches taken from the parent plant then inserted into a T-shaped cut made in the root stock. Up to 1000 new plants could be initiated in a day. It was tedious work with success and reward not seen for 9 to 12 months when that single bud started to grow into a maiden [1 year old] plant. Mature plants would be trained up canes as I described in February.

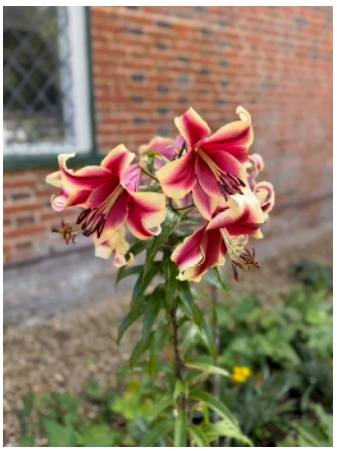
In the flower garden June and July is the time to sow those bi-annual seeds ready to bloom the following spring. Wallflowers and Sweet Williams are good solid favourites though there are many other varieties to provide early displays the following spring. August is the best month to propagate geranium cuttings. Good healthy 3 inch shoots will root in a matter of a few weeks

In the vegetable garden succession sowing of salad crops can provide fresh produce well into the winter, especially if you have a cold frame. Make sure soft fruit crops get enough moisture so they end up as lovely juicy fruit to complement a splattering of ice cream.

Other simple but important jobs include dead heading to maximise the potential of a second crop. Roses and sweet peas are regular targets but cutting back the spent spikes of lupins and delphiniums can provide a bonus crop of autumn colour unless seed is needed or if you are interested in flower arranging. If you like to grow lilies always be on the lookout for the dreaded red lily beetle which can decimate a plant overnight as I found out about a month ago.

In the fruit and vegetable garden at the almshouse the new 'allotment' has been sufficiently rewarding for a first year, with reasonable crops of carrots, new potatoes, calabrese, peas, summer cabbage and red beet, plus crops of sweet corn and runner beans in the making. The abundance of stone and flint in the garden does make for an entry for unusual shaped vegetables at the village show.

While a modern trend is to leave an unkept area to look after itself, I personally like to see a well maintained lawn with neat edges surrounded by a smart tidy hedge. With the latter in mind, my favourite hedge has to be hornbeam. This is relatively quick to get established and provide all-year-round foliage with its beech-like leaves lasting well into the winter months. It also has the benefit of one late summer cut to maintain a smart and tidy backdrop to shrub and flower borders. We used to say wait till the third week in August to cut hedges, then they won't need another cut before winter, though with the ever-changing patterns to our climate this gives no more than a guide, always dependant on variety, soil conditions and the weather. If you are thinking of some sort of topiary then box, yew or the fast growing Lonicera Nitida which will quickly provide new growth to challenge the artistic side of the gardener.



Lilies in the almshouse garden

Finally to end this quarter's garden notes I must commend the residents of Ufford on an excellent village garden show this weekend. Considering the challenges the weather and climate are regularly imposing on us horticulturists, I felt it was a quite remarkable effort from the organisers to present such a wide range of classes, and from the show committee who set the whole event into motion. My congratulations to all the winners. But my prize goes to the most important entrants, those who contributed to the show without getting rewarded. For it is those who turn a prizegiving event into a glorious display of produce. To you all, well done.

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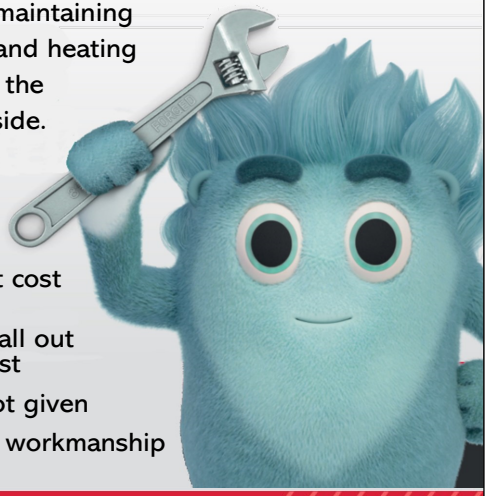

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UFFORD DIARY DATES FOR AUGUST

EVENTS

11th August (Mon)	Friends of Parklands Wood - Working Party 9.00am	UCH
18th August (Mon)	Friends of Parklands Wood - Working Party 9.00am	UCH
19th August (Tue)	Ufford Parish Council - Meeting 7.00pm (TBC on PUNCHLine)	SMPH
21st August (Thu)	White Lion Open Mic Night 7.00pm	
22nd - 25th August	Beer Festival Weekend at the White Lion	
23rd August (Sat)	Ufford Crown - Music in the Marquee from 2.00pm	

CLASSES AND CLUBS

Tai Chi Classes	Mondays at 2.15pm	UCH
Tennis Club	Mondays and Fridays from 5.00pm	UCH
Boules	Tuesdays at 2.00pm	UCH
Ufford Bell Ringers	Tuesdays 7.30pm - 9.00pm	

BRIDGE CLUBS

Ufford Friendly Bridge Club
Mondays 6.30pm **UCH**

U2 Bridge Club
Wednesday 13th and 27th August - 1.45pm **UCH**

WHERE?

SMPH	**St Mary's Parish Hall**
UCH	**Ufford Community Hall**

The PUNCH Directory

Schedule of events and classes are on the diary dates above

Boules (by tennis court - UCH)
Di Fulcher 01394 460551

Bridge Classes
Mike Fisher
www.mikefisherbridge.com

Carpet Bowls
Di Fulcher 01394 460551

Community Hall
bookings.uch@gmail.com

Crocodile Rock
crocodilerock.music@gmail.com

Cycle Club
Stephen Thurlow 01394 460770

Deben Probus Club
John Hickling 01728 746322
johnhickling@uwclub.net

Footpath Warden
Megan Smith
megan.w.smith@btinternet.com

Friends of Parklands Wood
Rilla Forge
r.forge.upc@gmail.com

Happy Babies
hello@happy-babies.co.uk

Helping Ufford Group (HUG)
Hotline: 07595 970139
helpinguffordgroup@gmail.com

Parish Council & website
Clerk: Judi Hallett
01394 411405 / 07739 411927
www.ufford-suffolk-pc.gov.uk

Parish Church Committee
Karen Eyres 01394 460455
k.eyres@btopenworld.com

PUNCHLine
Tig Thomas 07710 882559
PUNCHline@uffordpunch.org.uk

St Mary's Parish Hall
Karen Eyres 01394 460455
k.eyres@btopenworld.com

Tennis Club
Chris Cage 01394 461082

U2 Bridge Club
Adrian Smith 01394 461179

Ufford Art History Group
Jenny Searle 01394 460317

Ufford Arts Festival
Jeremy Eyres 07739 330398

Ufford Basketball Club
Daniel Metz
uffordbasketball@gmail.com

Ufford Bell Ringers
Kate Eagle 07765 252515
kate.eagle1@gmail.com

Ufford Friendly Bridge Club
Lyn Taylor 01394 460253

Ufford Gardening Club
Sheila Creswick 01394 547658
sheila@creswick.uk
www.uffordgardeningclub.org.uk

Ufford Players Theatre
Jackie Wilks 01423 333167

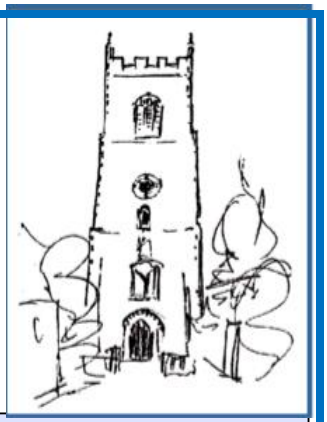
Ufford Tai-Chi
Ray Norris 01394 383076
www.suffolktaichiacademy.uk

Ufford PUNCH
Nicky Scott 01394 460186
secretary@uffordpunch.org.uk

ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION, UFFORD

(United Benefice with St. Andrew's Church, Melton)

Rector of Melton & Ufford: Rev. Paul Hambling
Church Office: St. Andrew's Church, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1PX T: 01394 387491
Church Wardens of Ufford: Karen Eyres T: 01394 460455
David Perfect T: 01394 460363



A highly experienced Bishop was thrilled to be chosen to lead the Church of England in Suffolk, as Downing Street announced her appointment as Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

The Rt Revd Dr Joanne Grenfell, 53, has been Bishop of Stepney in the Diocese of London, since 2019. She is also the lead bishop for safeguarding in the Church of England nationally.

Married with three children, Bishop Joanne will be the first woman to lead the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese. Bishop Joanne starts in post towards the end of the year and is keen to see more young people leading within the Church and their community, working alongside those with many years of experience.

She said: "I am honoured to be called to this role in this beautiful diocese, with truly lovely people and a grounded Suffolk sense of service and humility. I had the privilege of preaching at the Aldeburgh Festival a couple of weeks ago and I know I have so much to learn and understand about Suffolk.

"What I'm already discovering is how warm and welcoming people are. I'm excited about getting to know Suffolk and its people better."

We welcome her to our beautiful county!

With my prayers
Fr. Paul

Worship at Ufford & Melton

Everyone is welcome at all Services

AUGUST

Sun 3rd Trinity 7

08.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Melton
10.00 am Parish Eucharist at Ufford
10.00 am Morning Worship at Melton

Sun 10th Trinity 8

08.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Ufford
10.00 am Eucharist at Melton

Sun 17th Trinity 9

08.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Melton
10.00 am Parish Eucharist Patronal Benefice Service at Ufford

Sun 24th Trinity 10

08.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Ufford
10.00 am Eucharist atMelton

Sun 31st Trinity 11

10.00 am Benefice Parish Eucharist at Melton

LIVE CHURCH CALENDAR
www.uffordchurch.org

Food Bank donations welcome to the 'Little Pantry 'at St Andrew's Church, Melton with a collection Box in Ufford Church porch.

Thank you. **Jenny Searle**

THANK YOU!
To all those who supported the Young Rising Stars concert in June which raised £860 for the East Anglian Children's Hospice (EACH)

Online prayer resources:

https://pray-as-you-go.org/home/
https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer

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01394 460572 - info@kpmcars.co.uk - 07860 330890

KPM
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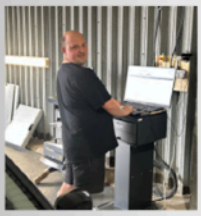

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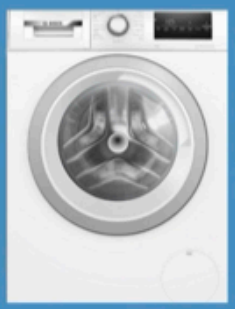

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9AM - 5.30PM

KIDZONE

FROZEN BANANA LOLLIES

SERVES 4

You will need:

4 lolly sticks
2 bananas
200g chocolate

A choice of toppings - such as:

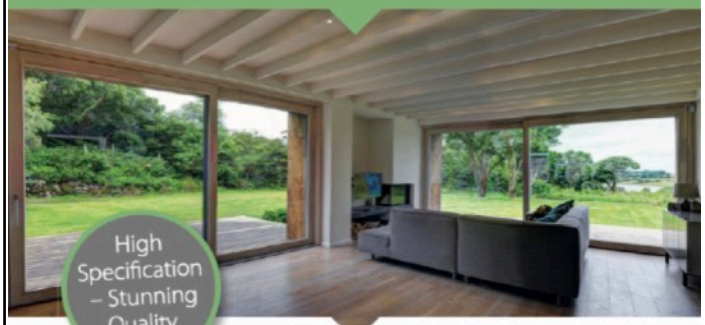
hundreds and thousands
chocolate chips
desiccated coconut
chopped nuts
dried fruit

METHOD

Cut 2 peeled bananas in half and insert lolly sticks in all 4 pieces.
Put the bananas on a flat surface such as a baking tray.
Break up the chocolate and melt.
Choose your toppings and place them on a plate.
Dip the bananas into the melted chocolate and then roll the bananas into the toppings.
Make sure the banana is covered.
Place the tray into the freezer until fully frozen.
Then enjoy!

d p agency ltd

BESPOKE WINDOWS & DOORS



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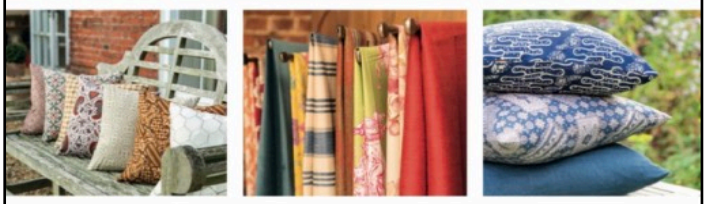

A thoughtfully curated selection of soft furnishing fabrics and trimmings, with advice on interior design schemes and assistance with the making up of curtains, blinds, upholstery & cushions

Monday - Friday 9.30am - 5pm and by appointment

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